

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-36 (Canceled)

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A method for dividing an analyte present in a solution comprising:

disposing the solution including the analyte fixed to magnetic particles in a first receptacle;

attracting, with a first magnetic mechanism, the magnetic particles fixed to the analyte to a bottom of the first receptacle and forming an initial residue at the bottom of the first receptacle; and

after forming the initial residue at the bottom of the first receptacle, dividing the initial residue into a plurality of residues by transporting the initial residue through channels connecting the first receptacle to the second receptacles, wherein the transporting uses relative displacement of a magnetic field created by a second magnetic mechanism.

Claim 38 (Canceled).

Claim 39 (Canceled).

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim [[39]] 37, wherein all of the channels are parallel to each other, and the transporting includes displacing the magnetic field generated by the second magnetic mechanism is parallel to a direction of the channels.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39, wherein the first and second magnetic mechanisms are coincident in a single entity.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 39, wherein the initial residue is a single and linear-shaped residue, dividing the first receptacle into two parts.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 42, wherein each channel is located on a same side of the initial residue in a direction of displacement of the field generated by the second magnetic mechanism.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 42, wherein the second magnetic mechanism includes a linear magnet that moves relative to the channels.

Claims 45-47 (Canceled).

Claim 48 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 39, wherein the second magnetic mechanism includes a magnetic structure with single or multiple projections.

Claim 49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 37, wherein each channel includes a ferromagnetic strip.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 37, wherein each second receptacle is connected to the first receptacle through a single channel including a capillary.

Claim 52 (Canceled).

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 37, wherein the dividing includes dividing the analyte quantity into equal quantities in each second receptacle.

Claims 54-72 (Canceled).

Claim 73 (New). The method according to claim 37, wherein the attracting includes forming an agglomeration of the analyte fixed to the magnetic particles.

Claim 74 (New). The method according to claim 37, wherein the initial residue is formed at a bottom surface of the first receptacle.